




# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/747,674	12/30/2003	Jin-Boo Son	6161.0019.C1	2870
7590	11/22/2004		EXAMINER	
McGuire Woods Suite 1800 1750 Tysons Boulevard McLean, VA 22102-4215			TRAN, THUY V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2821	

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/747,674	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thuy V. Tran	<b>Art Unit</b> 2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003 and 09 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-23, 26, 27 and 29-38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 25 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/106,069.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/30/03; 9/2/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is a response to the Applicants' filing on 12/30/2003, the first preliminary amendment concurrently filed therewith, and the second preliminary amendment filed 09/09/2004. According to the information provided therein:

- Claims 1-15 are canceled (which were originally filed);
- Claims 16-17 are now amended (which were newly added in the first preliminary amendment);
- Claims 18-38 are newly added (which are newly added in the second preliminary amendment); and thus,
- Claims 16-38 are currently presented in the instant application.

#### ***Priority***

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/106,069, filed on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

#### ***Inventorship***

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/02/2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

***Drawings Objections***

4. The drawings are objected to because Figs. 1-3 are not labeled correctly.

5. Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Specification Objection***

6. The specification of the disclosure is objected to because it lacks a statement about the parent application of which it claims the priority benefit.

Appropriate correction is required.

*An application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence of the specification or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) and (a)(5)). The specific reference to any prior nonprovisional application must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) between the applications except when the reference is to a prior application of a CPA assigned the same application number.*

***Claim Objections/ Minor Informalities***

7. Claims 17-18, 21, and 24 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 17, line 2, "addressed" should be changed to --selected--;

Claim 17, line 3, --- should be inserted after "field";

Claim 18, line 1, "method" (second occurrence) should be deleted;

Claim 21, line 1, "method" (second occurrence) should be deleted; and

Claim 24, line 1, "driving" (second occurrence) should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Double Patenting Rejections***

8. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

9. Claims 24-25 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,774. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the limitations recited in claims 24 and 25 and those recited in claims 7 and 8 of the U.S. Patent No. 6,670,774 would have been deemed obviously equivalent to each other to a person skilled in the art.

10. Claim 28 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,774. Although the

Art Unit: 2821

conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the limitations recited in claim 28 and those recited in claim 10 of the U.S. Patent No. 6,670,774 would have been deemed obviously equivalent to each other to a person skilled in the art.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

11. Claims 16-23, 26-27, and 29-38 are allowed. Note that claims 17-18 and 21 must be corrected to overcome the objection set forth in this Office Action for allowance.

12. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- A method for driving a PDP wherein a discharge space between cells is discharged before the initializing step if the predetermined period for the initializing step is present between the discharging step for a preceding field and the initializing step, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 16 (claim 17 is also allowed since it is dependent on claim 16);
- A method for driving a PDP wherein a reset stabilization period for inducing discharging in a discharge space between cells is additionally performed before the reset period based on information in the preceding field period, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 18 (claims 19-20 are also allowed since they are dependent on claim 18);
- A method for driving a PDP wherein a reset stabilization period for inducing discharging in a discharge space between cells is additionally performed before the reset period based on an immediate proceeding period, in combination with the

remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 21 (claims 22-23 are also allowed since they are dependent on claim 21);

- A plasma display panel driving apparatus wherein if cells discharging does not occur for a time interval before application of the reset signal, the reset signal generator generates a reset stabilization signal to cause discharging to occur in the cells prior to the generation of the reset signal, wherein the timing of the reset stabilization signal is based on an immediately proceeding period, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 26;
- A plasma display panel driving apparatus wherein if cells discharging does not occur for a time interval within a field period before application of the reset signal, the reset signal generator generates a reset stabilization signal to cause discharging to occur in the cells prior to the generation of the reset signal, wherein the timing of the reset stabilization signal is based on information in the field period, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 27;
- A method of driving a PDP wherein the timing of the reset stabilization signal is based on an immediately proceeding period, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 29 (claims 30-33 and 38 are also allowed since they are dependent on claim 29); and
- A method of driving a PDP wherein the timing of the reset stabilization signal is based on information in the field period, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 34 (claims 35-37 are also allowed since they are dependent on claim 34).

Art Unit: 2821

***Citation of relevant prior art***

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Nagai (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,610) discloses a PDD and a driving method.

Prior art Nagaoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,501) discloses a PDD and a driving method.

Prior art Kida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,329) discloses a PDD and a driving method.

Prior art Kanazawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,663,741) discloses a PDD and a driving method.

***Inquiry***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

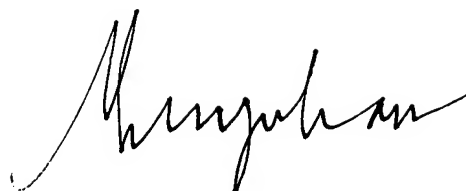
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/747,674

Art Unit: 2821

Page 8

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy V. Tran', with a stylized, cursive script.

Thuy V. Tran  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2821

11/16/2004